Protection of wildlife against Mafia

3033. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 863, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 2001 and state:

(a) whether wildlife mafias are having sophisticated weapons and the protectors are deprived of such facilities;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to take over the responsibility, at their own, to protect forest areas in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The lucrative nature of illegal wildlife trade and the high price offered to various wildlife products has led to creation of wildlife mafias equipped with all modem amenities.

The strategies for effective protection of wildlife and forests were discussed at the Conference of State Forests and Environment Ministers held on 29th to 31st January, 2001 at Coimbatore. A Coimbatore Charter was unanimously adopted with the following strategies:—

(i) The ban on recruitment of forestry personnel shall be lifted and the vacancies filled up immediately on the lines of Police Department. The field formations shall the reorganized into viable units and be provided with adequate mobility, fire arms and effective communication network.

(ii) An effective mechanism for intelligence gathering and data base of habitual offenders should be developed for preventing wildlife crimes.

(iii) Create effective enforcement infrastructure such as roads, buildings, wireless, equipments, vehicles, arms etc. for the protection of forests and Protected Areas.

(iv) Adequate expertise shall be developed for prosecuting

offenders and training be organized for undertaking investigations.

(v) Steps shall be taken immediately for designating special courts for wildlife offences.

(vi) Wild animals do considerable damage to agricultural crops in areas adjoining national parks and sanctuaries, causing considerable concern, thereby requiring formulation of an appropriate insurance scheme for compensating damage to agricultural crops falling within five kilometers of national parks and sanctuaries.

(vii) Existing provisions for payment of compensation in the cases of deaths due to wild animals were emphasized, with the objective of ensuring compliance by the State/Union Territories Governments.

Pollution load in Bangalore

3034. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has conducted any study on the pollution load in Bangalore;

(b) if so, what is the estimated per day pollution load there;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the pollution levels in Bangalore; and

(d) whether Government have released any financial assistance to Karnataka Government in this regard, during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI TR. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board in collaboration with Karnataka Pollution Control Board have